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ORGANIZATION OF HUNGARIAN COAL MINING INDUSTRY SCORED

Szabad Nep
Budapest, 23 Nov 1953

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The recent findings of the government that forced industrialization has impaired the safety and regularity of industrial operations fully apply to the coal mining industry also. In coal mining, the effects of overacceleration are manifested in the serious neglect of the opening of new seams and of putting them into workable condition. Because of this neglect, many mines have suffered a constant lack of productive work sites. Because the work sites are so poor in coal, the miners have been obliged to move from place to place and often have worked as many as five or six so-called "emergency" sites in one month. These conditions have made plan fulfillment impossible and have even been aggravated by the production drive days, when all hands are put to hewing coal. The production drive days, which exhaust all available workings, are inevitably followed by periods when the mine can produce nothing.

Now that the pace of industrialization is to be moderated, it will be possible to ensure a continuous supply of coal, provided that the mines are managed in a more rational manner. This month, the mines are engaged in making out the so-called "technical" (szakmai) plan. This plan not only sets forth final production figures but prescribes how the production is to be achieved. It includes details on the assignment of manpower and machinery and on the anticipated percentage yield of the workings; it prescribes also how many meters of the mine must be opened up and put into workable condition. The plan is supplemented by two maps. One map shows which parts of the mine are being and will be exploited; it gives the location of present and future shafts and coal faces and notes the month during which production will begin at the various workings. The second map, which is new in the coal mining industry, shows the disposition of the various grades of coal in the mine, and gives caloric values as well as the thickness of the seams. This map makes it possible to chart production in such a way that the mine will always deliver coal of the same quality.

In the coming year, seams should be worked according to the longwall method wherever possible. Furthermore, the longwall should be opened along the seam to facilitate ventilation and transportation. Although this method of opening requires longer preparation, it makes hewing much safer, and output becomes cumulatively greater. It also simplifies maintenance, since the transportation lanes and air shafts become shorter as work progresses. At present, 52 percent of longwall workings are open along the seam, but this percentage should be increased.

In planning the opening and preparation of seams, the engineers should allow for a certain number of "reserve" workings. The number of reserve workings allowed should depend on the geology of the mines. Generally speaking, 30 percent of the workings at Pecs should be reserves, while reserves at the other mines in southwestern Hungary and in northern Hungary should consist, respectively, of 20 and 10 percent of the workings.

All mining operations must be better organized than in the past. The technical cadres must teach the workers methods which are modern, efficient, and safe. The mines are expecting aid from research workers and from the manufacturers of mining machinery. The F-4 coal combine should be developed and perfected. Other mining machinery adapted to the special conditions of Hungarian mines should be designed also.

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The new year should bring closer cooperation between mine management and workers. At Varpalota, Imre Haracska, director, and Laszlo Vass, chief engineer, make a practice of helping the brigades which are preparing a working for production.

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